Allotment Evaluation
(AE)
for
Calabasas Allotment
#543

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Permittee		Authorization # The authorization number is to be determined. The allotment is in transfer status.
Livestock Use	Preference AUMs	Active / Suspended Current 1190 AUMs None Proposed* 1009 AUMs* None *See Conclusions and Recommendations section for details.
	Period of Use	Kind / Season of Use Current 213 Cattle 03/01-02/28 2 Horse 03/01-02/28 Proposed* 90 Cattle 11/01-2/28 2 Horse 11/01-2/28 *See Conclusions and Recommendations section for details.
	Kind of livestock	Cow/Calf Horses
	Percent Public Land	Current AUMs are authorized at 46% Active public land Proposed* AUMs will be authorized at 67% Active public land *See Conclusions and Recommendations section for details.
Allotment Profile	Physical Description	The allotment lies about 1.5 miles north and west of the Santa Fe Municipal airport. The airport is located in Santa Fe County, southwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Elevations run from 6200 feet in the bottom of the Calabasas Arroyo to 6900 feet on the

		slopes of Cerrita Portillo. **Soils:** **SR-Silver loam 0-10% slopes**. The Silver series consists of well-drained soils that formed weathered from basalt and wind-laid deposits of volcanic debris. These soils are on alluvial fans. Slopes are 0-10 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses and piñon and juniper. Elevations range from 6,600 to 7,000 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12-14 inches. **PK-Pojoaque –Panky association**. The Pojoaque series consists of well-drained soils on upland terraces. These soils formed in old alluvium that has been reworked by water. Slopes are 5 to 25 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses, shrubs and piñon and juniper. Elevation ranges from 6,600 to 7,200 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **PB-Panky Fine Sandy Loam**- The Panky series consists of well-drained soils that formed in mixed old alluvium on alluvial fans. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses and shrubs. Elevation ranges from 6,600 to 7,000 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **CA-Calabasas loam 0-10 percent**. The Calabasas series consists of well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from basalt and wind laid deposits of volcanic debris on piedmont slopes and fans. The vegetation is mid-grasses and scattered shrubs. Elevation ranges from 6,400 to7, 000 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 14 inches. **AP-Apache stony fine sandy loam**. The Apache series consists of well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from basalt and other volcanic debris. Depth to bedrock 11 to 20 inches. Slopes are 1 to 15 percent. The vegetation is mainly

		mid-grasses, shrubs and trees. Elevations range from 6,400 to 6,800 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **FF-Five mile loam 0-5 percent slopes**. The five mile series consists of well-drained soils on floodplains. They formed of recent alluvium. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses. Elevation ranges from 6,600 to 7,000 feet the mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **BH-Bluewing gravelly sandy loam**. The Bluewing series consists of excessively drained soils on terraces. They formed in recent alluvium of mixed origin. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses. Elevation ranges from 6,400 to 7,000 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **MG-Montoso gravel loam 5 to 30 percent, MH-Montoso gravel loam 30 to 60 percent**. The Montoso series consists of well-drained soils that formed in cinders and other volcanic debris on cinder cones and hills. Slopes are 5 to 60 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses, shrubs, and trees. Elevation ranges from 6,800 to 7,200 feet. The mean annual precipitation 12 to 15 inches. **MA-Majada stony fine sandy loam, 20 to 50 percent slopes**. The Majada Series consists of well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from basalt and other volcanic debris on uplands. Slopes are 20 to 50 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-grasses, shrubs, and trees. Elevations range from 6,800 to 7,200 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 15 inches. **CO-Clovis loam 1-3 percent slopes**. The Clovis series consists of well-drained soils that formed in mixed old alluvium on upland alluvial fans. Slopes are 1 to 3 percent. The vegetation is mostly mid-

		grasses. Elevation ranges from 6,200 to 6,600 feet. The mean annual precipitation is 12 to 14 inches. Soils information is derived from Soil Survey of Santa Fe Area, New Mexico, (Santa Fe County and Part of Rio Arriba County) United States department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service and United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. In cooperation with New Mexico Department of Agricultural issued August 1975.
	Land Status Acreage	**BLM** **Private** **State** Current: 5,794 7,569 3,521 Proposed Change: 5,046 632 2,059 Note: Due to the expansion of the City of Santa Fe there are multiple owners of private land within the historic allotment boundary other than the BLM permittee. The multiple ownership and issues associated with the land uses are the reason for the proposed changes. Grazing on the BLM parcels outside the recommend boundary change are no longer allocated to grazing.
	Management Objectives	The allotment is classified as an (I) Improve category allotment. Improve category allotments receive the most intensive monitoring studies and grazing management, and have first priority for range improvement projects. Efforts are concentrated on these allotments in order to improve resource condition and/or resolve resource conflicts. These allotments generally have the greatest potential for improvement. Although no Allotment Management Plan (AMP) exists for the allotment a grazing schedule that favors cool season species was recommended.
	Key Forage Species	Little bluestem, Indian rice grass, sideoats grama, bluegrama, black grama

	Grazing System	Multiple pasture rotational grazing system. Livestock were rotated between the private, State, and Federal lands in New Mexico and Colorado.
Management Evaluation	Actual Use	The allotment was not grazed from 2004 to 2008 due to issues surrounding illness and death of the authorized representative and resulting settlement of the estate. Actual use has been submitted intermittently for this allotment. Use has been assessed from paid bills. Below is a list of information gathered from the grazing bills: Year AUMs 2004 0 2005 0 2003 0 2002 0 2001 0 2000 282 1999 354 1998 354 1997 383 1996 383 1995 1190
	Utilization	Due to the non-use and shortages of range staff utilization studies have not been conducted on the allotment for a number of years.
	Climate	The past water year (Oct. 1, 2007 – Sept. 30, 2008) the average temperature has been nearly average (0 to 1 degrees Fahrenheit above average) and precipitation has been nearly average (0 to 1 inches above average), providing average plant growth on cool season and warm season plants. During the past 10 years (1998-2007) the temperature has been at or above average and precipitation has been fluctuating annually, but it is important to note that between 2000 and 2004 the 12 month running average was below the annual average. (Based on the Northern Mountains Climate Division, New Mexico from the Western Regional Climate Center).

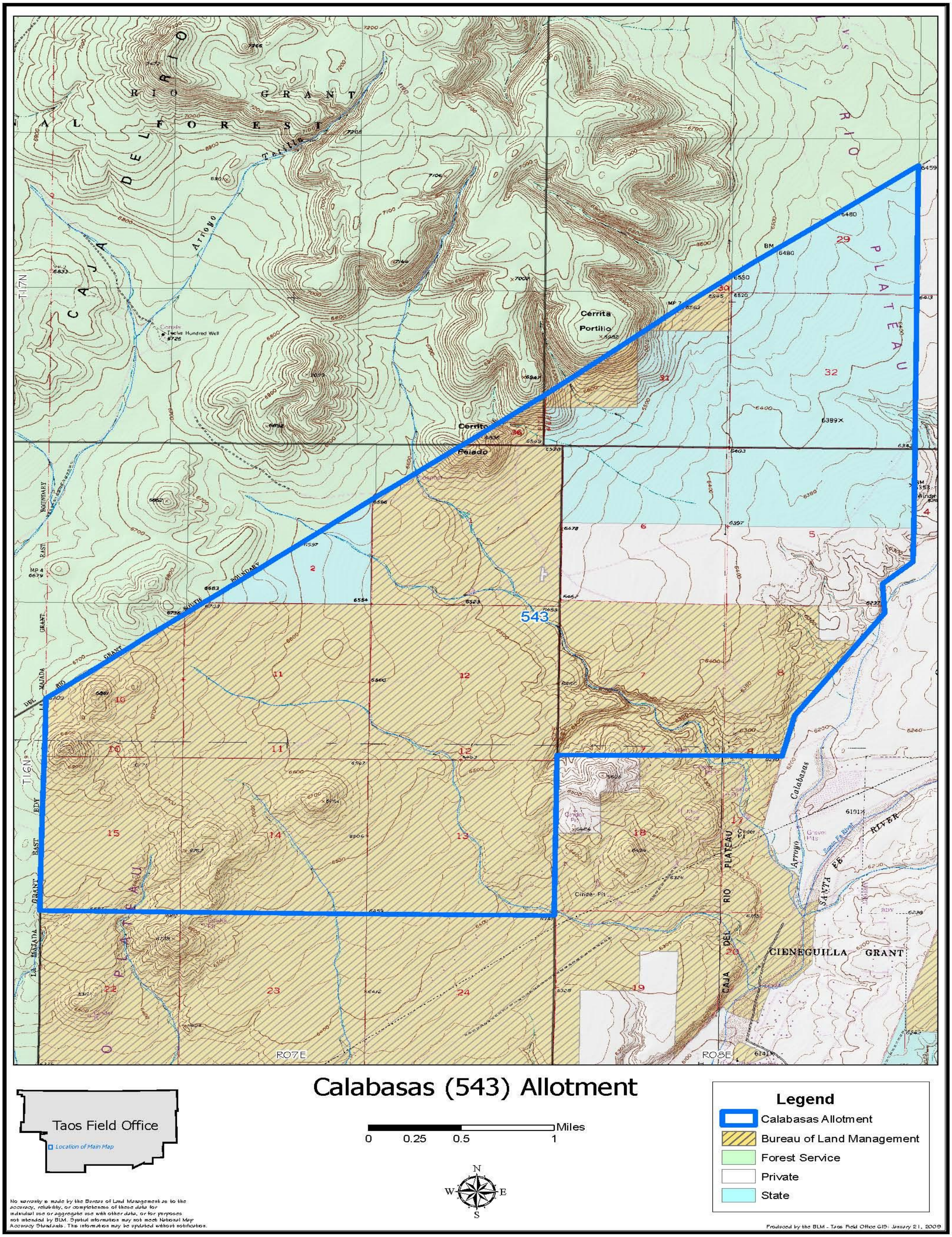
		Climate change is a concern not only in New Mexico but globally. "Effects of increasing atmospheric CO_2 levels on plants are predicted to cause dramatic changes in native vegetation. Global climate change may accelerate rates of plant extinction, while ecosystem structure and function may shift. Ecological response to global changes in climate could shift ecosystems (i.e., shrublands replacing grasslands) and have effects, not only to an individual species, but to the ecosystem itself by additions and deletions of vegetation species" (Johnson, H.B., and H.S. Mayeux. 1992. Viewpoint: A view on species additions and deletions and the balance of nature. Journal of Wildlife Management 45:322-333.) We anticipate that our monitoring efforts will help indicate vegetation shifts, allowing for management modifications to address global climate change. Precipitation information was obtained from the Western Regional Climate Center internet site. The Site is Santa Fe 2, New Mexico. There is missing data in multiple years. Average precipitation for the area is between 12 and 15 inches.
	Trend	Permanent Trend transects were established in the allotment. The Trend transects were last run in 1989. A Rangeland Health Matrix was completed on May 30, 2003. The actual survey forms are available within the allotment file. Below is a summation of the information gathered by the survey. Within the Rangeland Health Attributes are different categories of Indicators. The indicators cover what would be a "Departure From an Ecological Site Description" in potential condition. These indicators cover Soils/Site Stability, Hydrologic Functions and Biotic Integrity.

		Soil/Site Stability: Two of the indicators fell in the Non to Slight, six in the Slight to Moderate, one in the Moderate, and one in the Moderate to Extreme. This equated to a score of 78%. Hydrologic Functions: Three of the indicators fell in the None to Slight category, six in the Slight to Moderate, one in the Moderate, and one in the Moderate to Extreme. This equated to a score of 80%. Biotic Integrity: Three of the indicators fell in the None to Slight, four in the Slight to Moderate, one in the moderate and one in the Extreme. This equated to a score of 78%. Average for the site is 78.6 %. The analysis was conducted one year after a severe drought and the indicators, Annual Production, and Reproductive capability could be attributed to the previous years of drought. Soils were rated at proper functioning condition upward trend. Biotic-Flora was rated at Functioning Condition upward trend. Biotic-Fauna was rated at Proper Functioning Condition (PFC).
	Other	There have been multiple land tenure adjustments within the historic boundary of Allotment #543. Due to these adjustments there are now housing developments, the Santa Fe bypass and municipal facilities (golf course, ball parks, and landfills within the historic boundary). On February 4, 1994 a letter was sent to the permittee by the BLM notifying the permittee of a possible allotment boundary change.

		Due to the death of the authorized representative of record, this allotment is in transfer status. Trash dumping, fence cutting, and the establishment of shooting areas are issues of concern adjacent to and within the allotment.
Conclusions and Recommendations		<u>Boundary:</u> Conclusions: In 1994 a land exchange occurred within the historic allotment boundary greatly reducing the amount of BLM land in the east portion of the allotment. Grazing was excluded from the BLM parcels remaining in the area of the exchange. Due to the conversion of BLM land to private, county, and municipal land there has been an increase in the residential and commercial activities within the historic allotment boundary. The increased occupancy of these lands for other than agricultural purposes has caused the need to adjust the allotment boundary. The proposed boundary change will provide for easier maintenance of existing improvements. The boundary will also provide a buffer between the grazing allotment and the activities occurring in the Camel Tracks area (dumping, shooting, off road vehicle use). Please see attached maps. Recommendations: Recommendations are to adjust the allotment boundary to the section line between Section 28 and 29, 17 N., R 8E., NMPM where the line intersects the Forest Boundary, then south along the section line between Sections 32 and 33 and Section 4 and 5 of T. 16 N., R. 8 E. to the Cinegilla Grant Boundary. The allotment boundary would then follow the grant boundary south to the southern boundary of Section 8, 16 N., R. 8 E.. The boundary would then proceed west to the NW corner of 18, then south between Section 13 and 18 to the SE corner of 13, the line will extend west across the southern boundary of Sections 13, 14, and 15 to the

		Forest boundary. The boundary would then follow the Forest boundary north , then northeast to the original starting point. This adjustment would reduce the number of private land holders within the allotment boundary to two. <u>Period of Use:</u> Conclusions: The historic period of use of the area within the proposed boundary, BLM, State, and private lands was winter grazing. The animals were brought into the headquarters area because it was easier to monitor and care for the animals. Due to the boundary change the period of use and AUMs should be changed to reflect the changes in the boundary. Because of the extended non-use, and the reduction in the allotment boundary it is felt that the proposed preference AUMs within the proposed boundary may be in excess of what the resource can support; especially in drought conditions. Recommendations: Current monitoring data is unavailable for the allotment. Because of concerns that the preference AUMs assigned to the lands within the proposed boundary change may be in excess of what the current condition of the resource can carry it is recommended that the BLM, State Lands and the permittee work together through monitoring of the resources to establish a new carrying capacity for the allotment. The representative for the future permittee has submitted application to graze 90 cattle for fall through spring use. It is recommended that the permit be issued for the 90 cattle and 2 horses at 67% Active public land AUMs for the period of November 1 through February 28 for a total of 368 AUMs (246 AUMs Federal) of use. The remaining 763federal AUMs associated with the current permit will be placed in Temporary Suspended Use. The BLM, permittee, and State Lands will monitor the resources of the allotment and adjustments will be made as

		necessary. Additional AUMs will be activated as determined by analysis of the monitoring information. Any increase in the AUMs will come from the Temporary Suspended Use AUMs.


Calabasas (543) Allotment
Taos Field Office
Location of Main Map
Miles
0 0.25 0.5 1
N
W E
S
Legend
Calabasas Allotment
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
Private
State
543
Cerrita Portilio
Cerrito Pelado
RIO GRANT
CAJA DEL RIO
RIO PLATEAU
CIENEGUILLA GRANT
SANTA FE RIVER
Arroyo Calabasas
R07E
R08E
T17N
T16N
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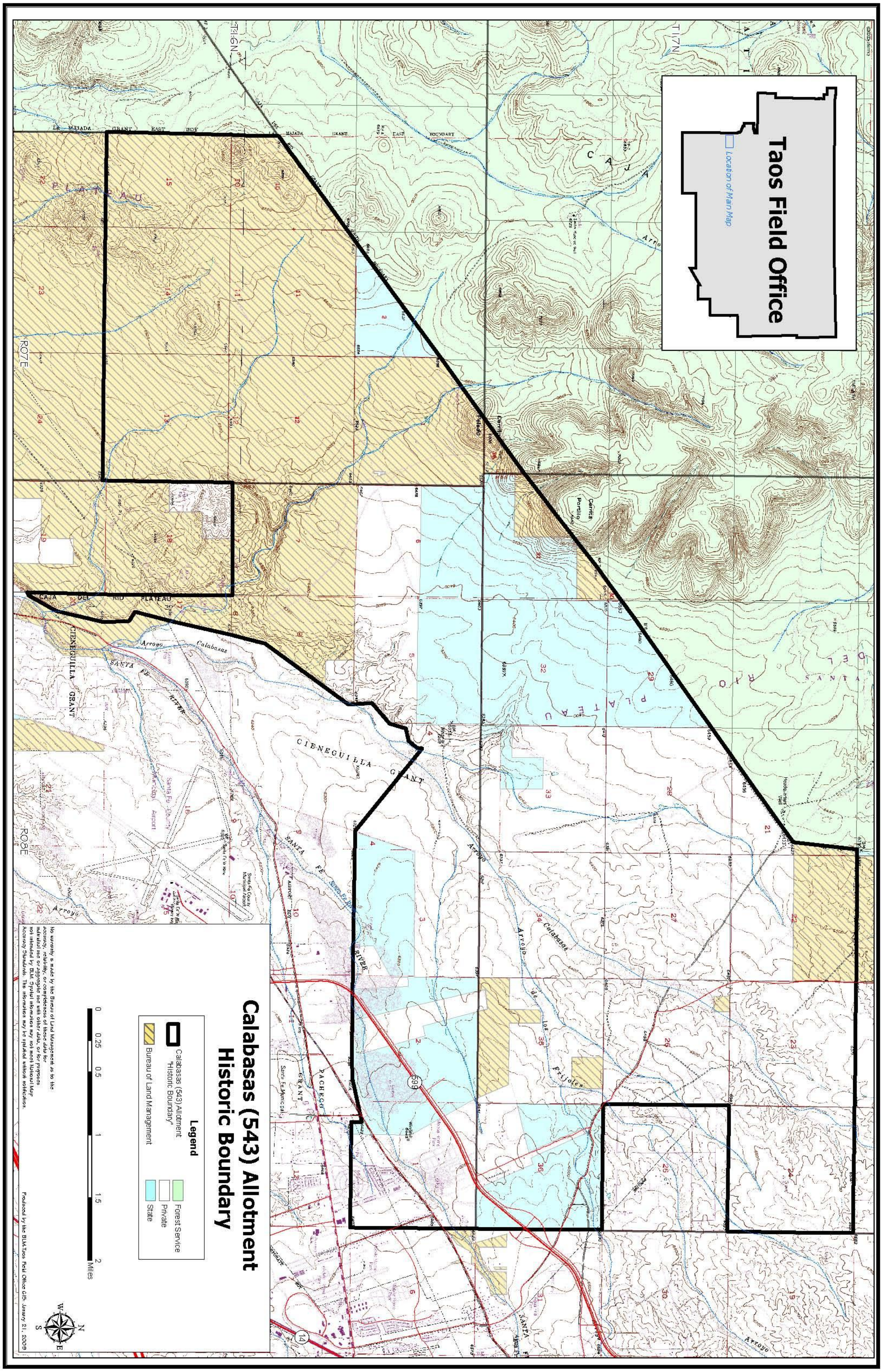
Calabasas (543) Allotment
Historic Boundary
Legend
Calabasas (543) Allotment "Historic Boundary"
Bureau of Land Management
Forest Service
Private
State
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles
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N
S
E
W
Taos Field Office
Location of Main Map
CIENEGUILLA GRANT
CAJA DEL RIO PLATEAU
Arroyo Calabasas
SANTA FE RIVER
Santa Fe County Municipal Airport
T16N
T17N
R07E
R08E